



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

No. 136

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we sing of Your steadfast love and proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. Our souls long for You, for we find strength and joy in Your presence.

Bless our Senators. Lord, teach them to trust You even during life's storms. May they find strength and joy in the wisdom of Your promises. Help them to remember that You have said that nothing can separate them from Your love. Lord, empower them to seek in every undertaking to know and do Your will.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know a lot of negotiations have been going on in the bill that is soon to be before us, and I appreciate the Senators from both parties who have done that, but sometimes we forget that there are hundreds of other people who work on it.

I know the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee have been working extremely hard. I think of people—Chuck Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, and others in our committee—who have given up weekends, evenings. They were working and briefing me until last evening on the work they were doing because we can say what we want to do, but then you have got to write it down.

The same thing happened with the bill that, fortunately, passed unanimously here to reimburse our National Guard, to pay the backpay and other necessities of the Capitol Police, to try to repair the damage and improve the situation after what happened—the terrible things that happened on January 6—to go for higher protections of COVID for everybody who works here in the Capitol: the staff, professionals,

everybody. This is from those who clean the Capitol to those who guard the Capitol; they all need this kind of protection.

And with the help of JEANNE SHAHEEN and others, we were able to put in additional money and changes in the law to help us bring translators back from Afghanistan, people who had worked and put their lives on the line for our military, and bring them to safety.

As soon as, first, President Trump and then President Biden said we are leaving, their lives and the lives of their families were greatly endangered by the Taliban, and now they are back.

But I mention that because sometimes I might say, only half in jest, that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staffs, but we are very fortunate to have some of the brightest women and men anywhere in the staffs of the Senators in both parties, and certainly in those who administer the Senate, including those who are presently sitting and preparing to help us on everything from points of order to making sure the right papers are done and that the votes are counted properly.

I see all of these people working hard here today when I came into the Capitol, everybody from those who have to follow and make a copy of what I say on the floor, on through. I didn't hear anybody say: Boy, I wish I wasn't here.

I am sure just about everybody had other plans for Saturday and Sunday instead of being here. I think we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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have come here who are helping us perform our duties. And I hope that Senators on both sides of the aisle will take note of that, try to bring these things to a conclusion—of course, have whatever votes we need—but keep in mind that there are hundreds, thousands of people working in the Capitol whose schedules are oftentimes disrupted because of our schedules.

They do it. They help us. They support us. We could not do our job without them. And I hope we will take note of that and help them in reaching a conclusion or at least give some finality to what we are doing.

I am willing to stay here whatever hours are necessary, but I am hoping that we will know what those hours are so that the hundreds, even thousands of other people who work here in the Capitol can go about planning for themselves, their families, their friends, whatever need be.

So I would note that both the distinguished Presiding Officer is here, and I am here in the Senate. I am not holding up anything because no other Senator is seeking recognition, but I hope this may be coming to a conclusion.

With that, I will yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, from the very beginning, my stated goal for the July and August work period has been that the Senate pass both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions. This is our so-called two-track strategy: both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions. And despite some bumps in the road, always expected on two bills as large and comprehensive as these, we have remained firmly on track to achieve our two-track goal.

On the bipartisan track, I have worked with my colleagues throughout the process to help produce an outcome that all parties find acceptable. I have tried to prod the negotiators when they have needed it and given them space when they have asked for it.

Deadlines were necessary to advance the negotiations. We are here right now, during a rare weekend session, in order to move the bipartisan bill forward as quickly as possible.

The idea here is to produce an outcome, a real bipartisan agreement that

provides a significant down payment toward the level of infrastructure investment our country needs.

The process from here is simple. Once the legislative text of the agreement is finalized—and I understand it is being finalized imminently—I will offer it as a substitute amendment, as I have always promised, and then the Senate can finally begin voting on additional amendments.

Given the thoroughly bipartisan nature of the bill, I expect we will be able to consider all the relevant amendments and finish the bill in a matter of days.

But we know that this bill is not everything our country needs. That is why, after the bipartisan infrastructure legislation passes this Chamber, I will immediately move to the other track: passing a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, which will allow the Senate to make historic investments in American jobs, American families, and efforts to reverse climate change. Both tracks are very much needed by the American people and we must accomplish both.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JANUARY 6

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is hard to keep up with Donald Trump, particularly his Big Lie. Like the coronavirus, it is constantly mutating.

A couple days ago, I read that one of the most vocal competitors of that Big Lie, Mike Lindell, the MyPillow Guy, has pulled all his advertising from FOX News. Why? Because FOX refused to sell him airtime for a commercial repeating the dangerous, discredited lie that the Presidential election was stolen. It is hard to imagine what level of conspiracy craziness it takes for even FOX Network to say that goes too far, but we have reached that point when it comes to the MyPillow Guy.

I don't know how Mr. MyPillow is going to peddle his products now. Maybe he will stand on the street corner handing out flyers next to one of those blow-up, scarecrow balloons that gyrates wildly in the wind. At this point, it is hard to rule anything out.

But there is another development on the Big Lie that is far darker and more disturbing. According to recent published reports, former President Donald Trump is now denouncing the brave police officers who testified last week before the select committee in the House about the mob insurrection on January 6 in this Chamber, in this Capitol. He is disparaging them with a word which I will not repeat.

His attacks on these officers is reprehensible and inexcusable and totally predictable. These officers and hundreds more battled a murderous mob sent to the Capitol by President Donald Trump to overturn an election. He sent that mob to attack this Capitol and American democracy because he couldn't bear the shame of losing. He wanted to overturn the election and cling to power like a tin-pot dictator. The police officers he now denounces still bear the wounds from the insurrection he ordered. Some other Trump supporters have attacked at least one of the police officers who testified as a "crisis actor."

This morning's New York Times has an article by Maureen Dowd, which I would like to quote from. She is speaking of Laura Ingraham, one of the political pundits on FOX Network. It says:

Laura Ingraham even gave awards—"Best Exaggerated Performance," "Best Political Performance" . . . "for the Performance in an Action Role"—to the police who recounted their terrifying battles with the mob. "They came across as political actors," Ingraham said. "That doesn't help anything. We want the police to be just police."

Even as Ingraham was describing as "actors" those cops who faced danger, Erin Smith was trying to get the death of her husband, a veteran Washington patrolman—the second officer to take his life after the insurrection—reclassified from a suicide to a death in the line of duty.

After he was hit in the head with a metal pole during the rampage, he fell into a dark depression, his wife told The Times. On the way to his shift, he pulled his car off the George Washington Parkway and killed himself with his service weapon.

More than casting the police who told their stories as drama queens and fabulists, four House Republicans, representing the "dregs of Congress"—

In Maureen Dowd's words—

turned up at a Washington jail on Thursday to shine a light on the plight of insurrection suspects. One of them, Representative PAUL GOSAR of Arizona, hailed them as "political prisoners."

Since when do Republicans care more about criminals in jail than the cops who put them there? Since when do they coddle domestic terrorists?

Since Donald Trump.

There was a point decades ago where, in desperation to stop the ravings of a Senator from Wisconsin, a man named Joseph Welch said to the Senator: Have you no shame? At long last, have you no shame?

That is what Joseph Welch famously asked Senator Joseph McCarthy when McCarthy tried to turn his vicious smear campaign against members of the U.S. Army after his lies had already broken the lives of so many Americans.

Now an angry, embittered ex-President is turning his vicious smear tactics against a different group of democracy's defenders. It is pointless to ask if the former President feels shame or decency or empathy. We learned long ago that he is incapable of such feelings.

So I ask my Republican colleagues: What do you say? At long last, will you